

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8370

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T HELSINKI 0484

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, FI

SUBJ: LOS - STRAITS ISSUE

REF: STATE 048348

1. SUBSTANCE PARAS (A) AND (B) REFTEL PASSED TO GUSTAFSSON MARCH 5. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE BUT REGRETTED HE STILL KNEW NOTHING ABOUT US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS ON STRAITS ISSUE WHICH HE ASSUMES TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK MEETING. HE SAID HE WOULD QUESTION SOVIETS MARCH 6 ABOUT THESE DISCUSSIONS.

2. GUSTAFSSON SAID THAT SOVIET DELEGATION, WHICH NOW IN HELSINKI HEADED BY CHIEF OF SOVIET MFA SCANDINAVIAN DEPARTMENT, HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD DISCUSSIONS IN STOCKHOLM AND COPENHAGEN. HE BELIEVED THAT FINNS, SWEDES AND SOVIETS WERE CLOSE IN THEIR APPROACH TO STRAITS PROBLEM AND THAT PURPOSE OF CURRENT SOVIET VISIT HELSINKI MAY BE TO FORMALIZE AGREEMENT HE SAID THAT FINNS AND SOVIETS PRESUMABLY READY TO AGREE ON FISHERY ZONE ALSO, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AS WELL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS TO FISH IN FISHERY ZONES OF NEIGHBORING STATES.

3. GUSTAFSSON SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BEGIN

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ATTENDING THE LOS CONFERENCE UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF

APRIL. ROTKIRCH WOULD BE HEADING FINNISH DELEGATION
UNTIL GUSTAFSSON ARRIVES. GUSTAFSSON SAID HE WOULD
APPRECIATE US THINKING ON HOW FIRST FEW WEEKS OF LOS
CONFERENCE ARE LIKELY TO GO. ASSUMING ALAND ISLAND STRAITS
PROBLEM CAN BE SETTLED IN LINE WITH FINNISH WISHES,
GOF WOULD LIKE TO BE POSITIVE FACTOR IN CONCLUDING
CONVENTION AND IS FACING PROBLEM OF DETERMING POINT AT
WHICH TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR DANISH PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: I TOLD GUSTAFSSON SIMPLY THAT I WOULD
REPORT HIS REMARKS BUT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY MORE
INFORMATION COULD BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO START OF LOS
CONFERENCE.
HOUSTON

SECRET

NNN

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